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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/615,546 | 07/08/2003 | Chris Miller | 0-03-046 | 9069 |
| 34492 | 7590 | 01/31/2008 | | |
| Sidley Austin LLP 555 West 5th Street Suite 4000 Los Angeles, CA 91723 | | | EXAMINER PRYOR, ALTON NATHANIEL | |
| | | | ART UNIT 1616 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 01/31/2008 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/615,546 | Applicant(s) MILLER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Alton N. Pryor | Art Unit 1616 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-15 and 17-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-15, 17-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed 8/23/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. See discussion below.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 9-15, 17-33 remain rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 7122018 and claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6793644. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both patents like the instant application disclose a method of promoting the healing of a wound comprising exposing the wound to a nitric oxide bath. The patents do not teach the application of a wound-healing agent to the wound in addition to the nitric oxide.

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However, the patented claims employ "comprising" language, which allows for the inclusion of a wound-healing agent.

Response to Applicants' argument

The Applicants argue that claims in USPNs '664 and '018 are silent to a wound healing agents and that wound-healing agents are in the instant claims. While it is true that the USPNs do not claim wound healing agents, the instant application teaches that the wound healing agents disclosed therein are well known in the art. Since the specified wound healing agents in the instant claims are well known in the art, it would have been obvious to add the wound healing agents to the nitric oxide recited in the instant claims. One would have been motivated to do this since nitric oxide and the wound healing agents promote the healing of the wound. See KSR. The exposure of nitric oxide to a wound would obviously include exposure to the whole wound including the wound's tissue flap and areas surrounding the wound. With respect to the step of wetting, dampening or moistening a wound (damaged tissue) following nitric oxide exposure, the step appears to be a standard practice following treatment of a wound with any chemical. This step appears to be geared toward wound maintenance and clean up.

Applicant's arguments, see paper, filed 8/23/07, with respect to provisional obviousness type double patenting have been fully considered and are persuasive. The provisional obviousness type double patent rejections have been withdrawn.

Claims 9-15,17-33 are no longer provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 46-89 of copending Application No.

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20050137521 (10/944479) and claims 1-39 of copending Application No. 20050217679 (11/107618). This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because application '479 like the instant application discloses a method of promoting the healing of a wound (lesion) comprising exposing the wound to a nitric oxide bath. The patents do not teach the application of a wound-healing agent to the wound in addition to the nitric oxide. However, the patented claims employ "comprising" language, which allows for the inclusion of a wound-healing agent.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because application '618 like the instant application discloses a method of promoting the healing of a wound (nasal wound) comprising exposing the wound to a nitric oxide. The patents do not teach the application of a wound-healing agent to the wound (nasal wound) in addition to the nitric oxide. However, the patented claims employ "comprising" language, which allows for the inclusion of a wound-healing agent.

Response to Applicant Arguments

The provisional obviousness type double patenting rejections of instant claims over the claims in USANs 10/944479 and 11/107618 are withdrawn. USANs '479 and '618 have a later filing date than instant application.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

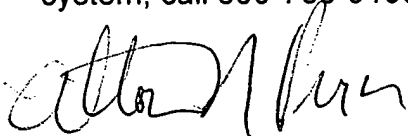
Telephonic Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alton N. Pryor whose telephone number is 571-272-0621. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alton Pryor', is written over the printed name.

Alton Pryor
Primary Examiner
AU 1616